

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A bone support for use during removal of unwanted material from within a cavity of a bone formation during surgery, said support including a surgical support clamp adapted to engage an external surface of the bone formation, the clamp having a pair of elongated arms with opposed bone-supporting jaws at one end to engage the bone formation, a connecting arrangement by which the arms are connected together and are moveable relative to each other, and an arm moving arrangement associated with the arms by which the opposed jaws are adapted to be urged together to securely grip and support the bone formation.
2. A bone support for use in supporting a bone during a surgical operation in which unwanted material is removed from within a cavity of the bone formation, the support including one or more support clamps located by a guide, each support including engagement means to fit around and support said bone during said operation.
3. A bone support according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the or each support clamp includes a surgical tool guide means to guide a cutting tool for removing said unwanted material.
4. A bone support according to claim 3 wherein the or each support includes two arms connected at or adjacent their proximal ends for movement relative to each other, each of said arms having a respective one of a pair of opposed bone-supporting jaws at the distal end.
5. A bone support according to claim 1 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein the arms are hinged together adjacent their proximal ends such that movement of the

proximal ends away from each other causes resulting movement of the jaws towards each other.

6. A bone support according to claim 5 wherein said support clamp includes an adjustable arm moving arrangement for selectively moving said jaws into and out of gripping engagement with said bone.
7. A bone support according to claim 6 wherein said arm moving arrangement is located at or adjacent said proximal ends of said arms.
8. A bone support according to claim 7 wherein said arm moving arrangement includes a threaded shaft threadedly engaged through one said arm; a handle located at one end of said threaded shaft; and an abutment portion at the other end of said shaft such that relative rotation of said handle moves said abutment portion into engagement with the other said arm thereby moving said bone-support jaws into gripping engagement with said bone formation.
9. A bone support according to claim 8 wherein said jaws are substantially concave to fit closely around the outer surface of said bone formation.
10. A bone support according to claim 9 wherein a plurality of support clamps are positioned along said bone to support the bone along its length.
11. A bone support according to claim 10 wherein each support clamp is aligned relative to the longitudinal axis of said bone cavity.
12. A bone support according to claim 11 wherein said surgical tool guide means includes a guide rail mounted to at least one of said arms wherein said guide rail is adapted to receive a guide display for displaying the orientation of said bone.

13. A bone support according to claim 12 wherein said guide display is a guide rod slidably mounted to said guide rail.
14. A bone support according to claim 13 wherein said guide rail is movably mounted to at least one of said arms for facilitating insertion of said guide rod.
15. A bone support according to claim 13 wherein said guide rail is fixedly mounted to at least one of said arms.
16. A method of aligning a surgical tool with a bone cavity comprising the steps of engaging a plurality of bone supports as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 with an external surface of the bone formation, engaging a guide rod with guide rails on each bone support such that the guide rod extends substantially parallel with the bone cavity whereby a surgical tool is able to be aligned with the bone cavity using the guide rod as an aligning guide.
17. A surgical chisel for use in the method of claim 16, said chisel including a shaft having a hollow portion adjacent a cutting end; an abutment portion at the other end of said shaft; said hollow portion having tapering internal walls extending inwardly towards a central axis of the shaft to define a cutting edge at said cutting end.
18. A surgical chisel according to claim 17 wherein said hollow portion extends along a major portion of the length of said shaft.
19. A surgical chisel according to claim 18 wherein said shaft is generally circular in cross section.
20. A method of performing hip revision surgery on a patient, said method including the steps of:
  - a) exposing a femoral bone formation of said patient;

b) applying at least one bone support as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~  
claim 1 to said femoral bone formation to support the structure of femoral  
formation; and

c) removing unwanted material from within the cavity of said femoral bone  
formation.

21. A method according to claim 20 further including the step of:

d) extracting a first implant from within said femoral bone formation.

22. A method according to claim 21 further including the step of:

e) inserting a second implant into said femoral bone formation after removal  
of the unwanted material.

23. A method according to claim 22 within step (a) includes exposing said  
femoral bone of said patient through at least two incisions adjacent said bone.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein step (b) includes applying the  
jaws of at least two bone supports to said femoral bone formation through said  
at least two incisions adjacent said bone.

25. A method according to claim 23 further including the step of engaging a  
guide rod with guide rails associated with each bone support such that the guide  
rod is substantially aligned with the bone cavity to guide the use of a surgical  
chisel to remove unwanted material from the cavity.

26. A bone support according to claim 2 wherein the or each support clamp  
includes a surgical tool guide means to guide a cutting tool for removing said  
unwanted material.

27. A bone support according to claim 4 wherein the arms are hinged  
together adjacent their proximal ends such that movement of the proximal ends

away from each other causes resulting movement of the jaws towards each other.

28. A method of aligning a surgical tool with a bone cavity comprising the steps of engaging a plurality of bone supports as claimed in claim 2 with an external surface of the bone formation, engaging a guide rod with guide rails on each bone support such that the guide rod extends substantially parallel with the bone cavity whereby a surgical tool is able to be aligned with the bone cavity using the guide rod as an aligning guide.